

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
Rural District Council
OF
WILTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DEC.
1919.

WILTON
Wilton Printing Works, Wilton.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a report on the conditions in your district in 1919.

May I hope that you will remember that I have only recently been appointed to the office of Medical Officer of Health and that I have had to report on matters about which I have had some difficulty in getting information.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

At the census taken in 1911 the population was 8079.

Official estimates of the population of the district for the year 1919 are given for estimating the Birth Rate at 8133 and for estimating the Death Rate at 7807.

The Physical Features of the district consist of high down land with a shallow layer of soil over lying the chalk, intersected by valleys of rich meadow land. The district is well wooded. The greater part of the population dwells in villages along the valleys.

Most of the inhabitants are occupied in agriculture and in attending to the needs of those so engaged. The culture of water cress is an important industry in some parts of the district. Brick making, Whiting manufacture, Motor manufacture, and Railway engine sheds are also found in the district.

None of these industries appears to have any particular influence on the Public Health.

Vital Statistics.

Number of Legitimate Births:—Male 68, Female 66

Number of Illegitimate Births:—Male 10, Female 8.

Total Births :—Male 78, Female 74.

Birth Rate per 1,000, 18·7 (for England and Wales 18·5).

Total Deaths :—Male 49, Female 50. Rate 12·7 per 1,000 (Rate for England and Wales 13·8)

Average age at death, 57.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—Male 3, Female 1. (1 Male was illegitimate).

Rate 26·3 per 1,000 births. (Rate for England and Wales, 89.)

The number of cases of pauper sickness attended during the year was 116,

Poor Law Relief was paid to the amount of £504 8 0½.

Gratuitous medical relief is obtainable at Salisbury Infirmary and is chiefly made use of by persons requiring operative and other hospital treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water. For the greater part of the District the water supply is obtained from wells. Rain tanks are used in some of the higher places.

There are pipe services in Bemerton, Dinton, Fovant, and Fisherton Delamere. In each case the supply is constant, obtained from deep wells and free from sources of contamination.

In Quidhampton there is a supply from Public Wells; but the extension of a pipe supply from Bemerton is under consideration and would, if introduced, allow of the introduction of sewage disposal by the water carriage system.

None of the water is plumbo-solvent and no action has been required to be taken during the year for contamination.

In the later part of the year a few wells failed, but water was hauled by the farmers where necessary.

Rivers and Streams. There has been no need of any action being taken during the year for any pollution of rivers or streams.

Drainage and Sewerage. Sewage is disposed of by a Sewage Scheme at Bemerton with a sewage farm to which the sewage is pumped

This has worked well during the year.

For the rest of the District the sewage is dealt with by means of septic tanks. There have been no complaints made with regard to these during the year.

Closet Accommodation. It is estimated that there are in the District 970 privies with covered middens ; 600 water closets and 6 waste water closets. During the year 8 privies were reconstructed as water closets and 10 otherwise.

During recent years about 120 closets have been converted to the water carriage system.

Scavenging. Arrangements for the removal of house refuse are only in force at Bemerton. The refuse is disposed of in a tip. Movable ashbins with proper coverings have been substituted for fixed receptacles throughout Bemerton.

Sanitary Inspection of the District. The Inspector of Nuisances made 200 inspections during the year ; 30 Informal Notices were served and all were complied with. 6 Statutory Notices were served and all were complied with.

There were 2 nuisances in hand at the end of 1919.

During the year 30 nuisances were reported and 30 abated.

There were no Summonses or other legal proceedings.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations. There are none in the District.

Other Sanitary conditions requiring notice. There have been none.

Schools. The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools during the year have been satisfactory.

FOOD.

No cases of tuberculous cows have been notified by the Police during the year. There have been 200 inspections of cowsheds in the district, and the general condition was good.

There has been no insufficiency of milk and no legal proceedings have been taken under the Dairy, Cowshed and Milkshop Order.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been no particular prevalence of any notifiable infectious disease during the year. Small epidemics of Scarlet Fever in the Langfords, with few cases spread over several months in which the spread of infection could not be traced, and of Diphtheria at Wishford, where the infection seems to have been brought by a visitor and to have spread by direct contact, occurred during the year.

As cases of Diphtheria are sent to the Joint District Isolation Hospital, where treatment with anti-toxin is used on admission, there has been no arrangement made for supply and use of antitoxin.

During the year no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica have been notified, nor have any return cases of Scarlet Fever been reported. Of the diseases notifiable under the regulations of 7th. January, 1919, only one case of Pneumonia was notified.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis of Diphtheria have been employed, use being made of The Clinical Research Association's laboratories. Cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have been treated at the Joint Isolation Hospital except when it has been possible to treat them in safety at home and when the patient has preferred to be so treated. In these cases the rooms occupied have been disinfected when the patient has recovered from the disease.

When a patient has been removed to hospital the rooms have been disinfected as soon as possible after the removal of the patient.

There were four deaths from Influenza during the year, giving a Death Rate of 0·5 per 1,000. No special inquiry was made or action taken in the district in regard to this disease.

Tuberculosis is notified as soon as diagnosed and doubtful cases are usually sent to The County Tuberculosis Officer at his Dispensary in Salisbury.

Small Pox. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff. This consists of a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. Previously he had an assistant who died while on Military Service. It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to provide another assistant, as the work is too much for one man.

Hospital Accommodation available for Infectious Diseases. This is provided at The Joint Isolation Hospital, administered by a committee representative of the various Councils concerned. The accommodation is ample and efficient.

Local Acts. No Local Acts, special Local Orders, or general adoptive Acts have been adopted during the year.

I cannot find any record of chemical or bacteriological work done during the year. Diphtheria swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Laboratories for examination; tubercular material is examined either by the medical man attending the case or through the County Tuberculosis Officer at "Virol" Laboratories.

HOUSING.

General Conditions in the District. There are 1915 houses in the District of which approximately 75% are for the working classes. There have been no new houses built since 1st. January, 1915, nor are any now in course of erection.

Population. The population is estimated at 8133 (for birth rate) and has probably decreased during the year owing to the closing of camps in the District and will probably continue to decrease for the same reason in the immediate future.

Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses. About 177 houses are required in the District to meet the present demand for houses, and 45 more will be required to replace other houses now in use which are not fit for habitation.

Measures taken or Contemplated to meet the Shortage. This shortage extends throughout the District and the Council has schemes on hand to acquire 24 sites in 17 parishes in the District and to build 222 new houses for the working classes. It is expected to take from two to three years to do this.

Overcrowding. There is a considerable amount of overcrowding at present owing to the shortage of houses. This is less than it was a little while ago owing to the departure of many camp followers. It has been impossible to deal with this matter owing to there being no available alternative accommodation.

Fitness of Houses. The general standard of housing is moderate, and in some of the more modern parts of the District, good.

It has not been possible for any action to be taken in cases of unfit houses, as there are no alternative houses into which the inhabitants could be moved.

Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal have been satisfactory and no measures have had to be taken during the year in these matters.

Unhealthy Areas. There are none.

Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc. There has been no trouble in the working of existing bye-laws and no need for new ones, or for revision of the existing bye-laws.

Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1919. Complaints made that dwelling houses are unfit for human habitation, 45.

No orders for repairs have been issued.

No dwelling houses have been closed.

No Demolition Orders have been made.

Dwelling houses voluntarily demolished, 4.

No representations have been made about obstructive buildings.

The only staff is the Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

A. W. K. STRATON.



TABLE I—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and 1919.

Year	Population estimated to middle of year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age	At all Ages.	Rate
			Number	Rate							
1914	8321	163	165	94	11.2	5	7	9	101	12.1	8
1919	8133	148	152	135	17.2	50	14	4	99	12.7	

Area of District in acres
(land and inland water) } 54,290

Total population at all ages } 8079 } At Census 1911
Total families or separate occupiers 1915.

TABLE II—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1919
in the Wilton Rural District.

[9

Notifiable Diseases	Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each locality of the District.			Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At ages—Years							Wilton	Bishop- stone	Work- house	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards				
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	7	1	5	1				6	1			
Erysipelas	1						1	1				
Scarlet Fever	9	2	5	2				9				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3							1	1	1		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	1	1	1		4	3	7	3			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1			1				1				
Measles	8		4	1	1	1		2	6			
German Measles	5		2	1				3	2			
Pneumonia	1			2		1	1	1				
Totals	45	3	8	8	6	4	1	31	13	1		

Isolation Hospital—Joint Isolation Hospital at Old Sarum.

TABLE III—Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1919, in the Wilton Rural District

[10

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents," in Institutions in the district
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	96 3	4		1	1	9	8	21	52 1
Diphtheria and Croup	1					1			
Influenza	4					2	2		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8					5	1	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1						1		
Cancer, malignant disease	15			1			1	7	7
Organic Heart Disease	22						1	4	17
Bronchitis	6							2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	4						1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1						1	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	2								
Congenital Debility, etc.	3	3						2	
Violence, apart from Suicide	3				1	1		1	
Other Defined Diseases	27				1		1	3	22
	99	4		1	2	10	8	21	53

TABLE IV—INFANT MORTALITY in Wilton Rural District

1919. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages Under One Year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 week.	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	Total Deaths under one year
All causes { Certified Uncertified	2	1		3	1			4
Other Respiratory Diseases					1			1
Congenital Debility, etc. ...	2	1		3				3
Total	2	1		3	1			4

